المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

4 December 1992

Mr Pierre Sané
Secretary General
Amnesty International

Dear Mr Sané,

Firstly, may I welcome you to your new position as Secretary General and wish your every success. The Islamic Council and Amnesty International have enjoyed close cooperation on mutual interests for many years and we look forward to the continuation of our relationship.

I am sure you are well aware of the outcome of the recent trial held in Alexandria and the death sentence passed on 8 defendants, Sharif Hassan Ahmad Mohamed Hassan being the only one present at the proceedings. You will know that there is no right of appeal against these sentences.

None of the defendants, 48 in all, was given the right of a free and fair trial according to internationally recognised standards of justice - they were tried before a military tribunal - and I am sure that Amnesty International will protest to the Egyptian government in the strongest possible terms against this denial of the defendants' basic human rights. All the information reaching us intimates that they are being persecuted solely for their religious beliefs.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

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Secretary General

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Mr Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
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15 December 1992

Dear Mr Azzam,

The Secretary General has asked me to respond to your faxed letter of 4 December, and to convey his thanks for your warm wishes on his appointment.

As you may be aware, I returned recently from a brief visit to Egypt to research matters of concern to Amnesty International. These included the two cases in Alexandria which were referred to a military court. In fact, when we learned of the eight death sentences we initiated an immediate appeal. Further actions were in preparation when we learned of the State Council's decision regarding the cases' referral to a military court.

Please be assured that we shall continue to monitor developments in these and other cases of concern very closely. May I take this opportunity to thank you once again for your kind assistance and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

June Ray
Middle East Research

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